



## *Cincinnati Parks: Embracing a New Century*



*2000 Annual Report*

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## CINCINNATI BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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Roscoe A. Fultz

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*Director*



## MISSION

*To conserve, manage, sustain, and enhance parks' natural and cultural resources and public greenspaces — for the enjoyment, enlightenment, and enrichment of the Cincinnati community*



The first year of the new century offered Cincinnati Parks many opportunities to fulfill its noble mission — enriching the Cincinnati community with the parks' natural and cultural resources and public greenspaces. Significant strides were made in the development of many new regional project initiatives. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and the Park Board finalized plans to build a new addition to the Trailside Nature Center in Burnet Woods. The addition will house a special collection of nature-related books and field guides, as well as computer stations and an outdoor reading garden.

The Park Board and Xavier University have also partnered to develop 19-acres of land along Victory Parkway in North Avondale into a recreational resource for both local residents and Xavier University students.

Final plans were also outlined for the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, 22-acres along the Ohio River dedicated to celebrating international understanding. Cincinnati Parks representatives met with groups from Cincinnati's sister cities Taipei-Hsien, Munich, and Gifu in June. All three cities expressed an interest in making meaningful donations to the park.

In December, Cincinnati Parks staff members traveled to Munich for the *Heim und Handwerk Show*, where more than 200,000 visitors were introduced to Cincinnati Parks in an exhibit titled *A Tradition of Excellence*.

Technological advances have helped Cincinnati Parks complete elements of the master plan, *Planting the Future*. A Geographic Information System (GIS) and specialized natural resource software programs have electronically assessed and mapped data that will reveal significant new opportunities for undeveloped properties. The corresponding tree canopy study records a digital image of every tree in Cincinnati, which can also be added to the GIS. Planners and engineers can now plan future tree plantings and analyze their aesthetic impact on neighborhoods.

The Krohn Conservatory presented Cincinnatians with year-round opportunities to appreciate nature during its enlightening series of special shows and programs, including *A Winter Wonderland*, *Some Like It Hot: Summer in Cincinnati*, and *Denny McKeown's Backyard Retreat*. The Victorian-themed Butterfly Show was also a great success, drawing over 42,000 visitors between Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Ault Park also drew some "oohs and aahs" as visitors strolled through the past and future of Cincinnati Parks during the *Flower Show: Reflections and Projections*, hosted by Cincinnati Parks in the beautiful Ault Park.

The year's stunning successes are reflected in the impressive ranking by The Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute's *Best Urban Park Systems in the United States*. Cincinnati was named one of the top three

urban park systems in the country (with Boston and Minneapolis)! Perhaps even more important is the recognition received from its very own residents — The Cincinnati Parks system and the services provided by the Park Board were selected as one of the top city services. As reported in the biennial survey conducted by the University of Cincinnati's Institute for Policy Research, Cincinnati Parks were ranked second out of 28 city services (just behind Fire Services and ahead of Emergency Medical Services)!

Cincinnati Parks also welcomed two new dedicated individuals during the year. Roscoe Fultz began a six-year term as commissioner and Willie F. Carden, Jr., became the new Director of Parks in July. Both men bring strong leadership skills and valuable experience to Cincinnati Parks.

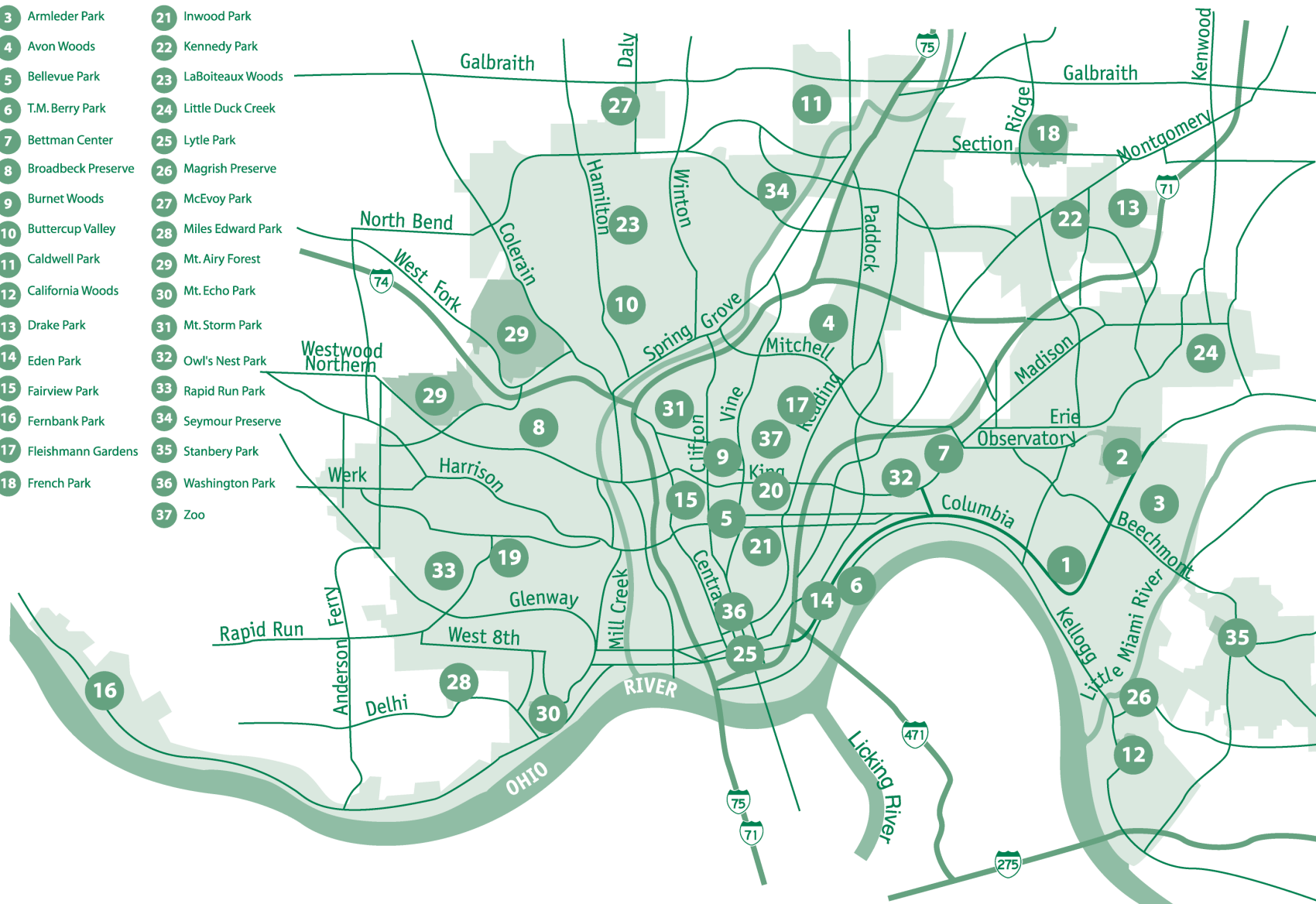
Finally, the accomplishments achieved during the year 2000 would not have been possible without the assistance of our dedicated volunteers, who offered more than 12,000 hours of their time. Thank you to those hard-working and generous parks enthusiasts!

Read on for the countless other accomplishments that have enriched the first year of this new century ...

# Cincinnati Parks: Major Parks and Preserves

- 1 Alms Park
- 2 Ault Park
- 3 Armleder Park
- 4 Avon Woods
- 5 Bellevue Park
- 6 T.M. Berry Park
- 7 Bettman Center
- 8 Broadbeck Preserve
- 9 Burnet Woods
- 10 Buttercup Valley
- 11 Caldwell Park
- 12 California Woods
- 13 Drake Park
- 14 Eden Park
- 15 Fairview Park
- 16 Fernbank Park
- 17 Fleishmann Gardens
- 18 French Park

- 19 Glenway Woods
- 20 Hauck Gardens
- 21 Inwood Park
- 22 Kennedy Park
- 23 LaBoiteaux Woods
- 24 Little Duck Creek
- 25 Lytle Park
- 26 Magrith Preserve
- 27 McEvoy Park
- 28 Miles Edward Park
- 29 Mt. Airy Forest
- 30 Mt. Echo Park
- 31 Mt. Storm Park
- 32 Owl's Nest Park
- 33 Rapid Run Park
- 34 Seymour Preserve
- 35 Stanbery Park
- 36 Washington Park
- 37 Zoo



# Krohn Conservatory

**T**he Krohn Conservatory is one of the nation's largest public conservatories managed by a city park department, representing more than 1,000 plant types from all over the world. It operates 365 days-a-year and includes a permanent plant collection, bonsai display, gift shop, and visitors' center. The Krohn Conservatory also provides a beautiful setting for a variety of floral shows, educational programs, and special events. Growing and propagating for the Krohn Conservatory and the parks is done at The Warden Nursery in Finneytown. During 2000, the Krohn Conservatory:

- Produced plant material for all Cincinnati Parks and Krohn Conservatory floral shows.
- Established a permanent Bonsai Collection at Krohn Conservatory in partnership with the Bonsai Society of Greater Cincinnati.
- Accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cincinnati Civic Garden Center.
- Was named to *Cincinnati Magazine's* "2000 Best of Cincinnati Hall of Fame".
- Produced five successful floral shows: *Tulip Time in Holland*, *The Cherry Blossom Festival*, *Tropicalismo — Some Like it Hot*, *Denny McKeown's Backyard Retreat*, and *A Winter Wonderland!* (Denny McKeown designed the Fall

Show, marking the first time an outside designer created a show at Krohn Conservatory.)

- Developed plans for an educational kiosk, the Krohn Zone Cart, and secured a grant of \$18,000 to purchase the cart.

## BUTTERFLY SHOW

The fifth annual Butterfly Show, *The Wonder of a Butterfly*, took place for five weeks during May and June. This year's Butterfly Show drew the first attendance increase since 1996 with:

- 42,819 visitors
- \$117,000 in paid admissions
- \$30,300 in cash donations and sponsorships
- \$43,042 in gift shop sales



Countless children enjoyed the fifth annual Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show.



# Customer Services, Programs, and Events

*The Customer Services, Programs and Events division provides opportunities for park clientele to reserve Cincinnati Parks' premier facilities, lodges, outdoor wedding areas, and picnic areas; secure special use park permits; enjoy park-sponsored concerts and special events; and volunteer their time and talents. They also provide support services to other park divisions.*

## RESERVATION SERVICES

*Statistical Overview (# of rentals/attendance)*

• Alms Park Pavilion:	12/1,045
• Ault Park Pavilion:	53/9,584
• French House:	13/2,068
• Krohn Conservatory:	20/2,074
• Mt. Echo Pavilion:	7/860
• Oak Ridge Lodge:	58/7,815
• Maple Ridge Lodge:	84/13,945
• Wedding Areas:	26/1,914
• Picnic Areas:	115/12,510
• Picnic Shelters:	181/23,296
• Bandstands:	45/13,650
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>614/88,761</b>

*During the 2000 season, the division also:*

- Issued 126 special use permits for events, with attendance totaling 136,240 (including photo/video shoots, scout programs, festivals, athletic events, runs/walks, car shows, educational venues, community events, concerts, art/sculpture exhibits, social awareness events, park-supported dances, festivals, and concerts.)

- Produced 26 park concerts/events attracting 8,050 participants, including the Acoustic Lunch Concert Series at Piatt Park; the Big Band Series at French, Rapid Run and Mt. Echo parks; the Seasongood Sunset Series in Eden Park; the Latin Luster & Boogie Woogie Night dances; the Pooch Parade & Picnic at French Park; and Balluminaria at Eden Park's Mirror Lake.

- Maintained Cincinnati Parks' web site [www.cinci-parks.org](http://www.cinci-parks.org).
- Staffed bi-monthly meetings of the Cincinnati Parks Advisory Council (CPAC), a networking group composed of representatives from various park advisory councils.
- Published monthly events calendars.
- Developed and distributed park news and photo opportunity releases for local media.

- Coordinated contracts for volunteer services, marketing services, special events, premier facility rentals, and concession services.
- Coordinated the October 24th Appreciation Dinner for the Cincinnati Police Park Police Unit.

- Coordinated the Governor of Ohio's November 1st press conference for State Issue #1 at Eden Park's Presidential Grove on behalf of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- Facilitated a benefit performance for Cincinnati Parks on November 1st at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

- Coordinated the quarterly publishing of Cincinnati Parks/Parks Foundation newsletter *Parkways*.

## PARK VOLUNTEERS

*More than 300 Cincinnati*

*Park volunteers donated their talents and more than 12,000 hours during 2000. The volunteers:*

- Donated more than 1,950 hours during the Butterfly Show (236 total volunteers).

- Supported Krohn Conservatory by making holiday crafts; serving as horticultural helpers, gift shop workers, and tour guides; staffing the Krohn Zone kiosk; and served as winter holiday show ambassadors.



# Park Operations and Maintenance

## *Volunteer Services cont.*

- Opened Bettman Library on a regular basis to the public and Cincinnati Parks' staff.
- Staffed the Ault Park Flower Show in May
- Walked trails to report maintenance issues as part of the Adopt-a-Trails program in Stanbery Park, Buttercup Valley, Ault Park, Mt. Airy, Burnet Woods and Magrish Preserve.
- Organizing and maintained the Ault Adopt-a-Plot garden program.
- Spruced up ten parks during GreenUp Day on May 20th, and eight other parks throughout the year.
- Supported Cincinnati Parks' special events, including the Juneteenth Festival and the Pooch Parade & Picnic.
- Participated in group projects, including volunteer groups from Convergys and various high schools and colleges.
- Assisted at the Mt. Airy Arboretum.
- Supported Cincinnati Parks' Nature Education programming, including the Nature Connections program and Caldwell Nature Center's Halloween Hike.

**P**ark Division of Operations and Land Management is responsible for the maintenance and beautification of the 5,000-acres in the Cincinnati Parks' system as well as the city's parkways. During 2000, Park Operations and Maintenance:

- Provided grounds maintenance and landscape services for over 60 developed parks; 30 natural areas, hillside areas, and preserves; four parkways; nine scenic overlooks; and other park properties.
- Maintained over 30 park picnic areas and facilities.
- Inspected play equipment, maintained safety surfaces, and helped to improve safety surfaces at five play areas.
- Utilized an in-house mechanic to minimize small equipment "down time" and repair costs.
- Reduced nine pieces of equipment from the fleet.
- Provided access to Potter's Field
- Relandscaped Fountain Square.
- Improved landscapes in Jergens Park and on Ludlow Avenue at Central Parkway.
- Fulfilled 19 park contracts to provide floral bed installations and maintenance, park maintenance, and contractual mowing.
- Worked with volunteer and community groups to clear brush, plant trees, and maintain trails at various park locations.
- Cleared views at area overlooks.
- Removed graffiti from various park structures and responded to acts of vandalism throughout the park system.



*Park Operations and Maintenance beautified many landscapes throughout Cincinnati.*

- Provided support to the Flower Show at Ault Park, as well as other events.
- Began creating a Maintenance Plan for each major Park, defining areas of maintenance for each park and tasks necessary to maintain each area, created a schedule of maintenance, defined a cost estimate to maintain each park, and created a staffing plan.
- Tracked labor costs for the second half of 2000 using a database system designed by staff, which will track every hour spent in each park and the use of the various staffing positions, as well as calculate the cost of maintaining a given park.
- Removed honeysuckle in California Woods
- Created new contracts for the maintenance of our downtown parks (Central Parkway, Eggleston Avenue, and Piatt Park) and for the maintenance of Fleishmann Gardens.
- Assisted with organizing the trip to Munich (Dec. 3 -11), including the program, local accommodations, Power Point presentations, flyers, and displays.
- Designed a deer pamphlet and poster discussing why we need an active deer management program.
- Strategized with the Business Services Section to hire fewer seasonal workers in 2001, but at a higher rate of \$9 per hour.
- Developed our divisional training plan.
- Wrote the Job Hazard Analysis for Park Operations and Maintenance's main positions.